

PATRIOT

439th Airlift Wing • Westover Air Reserve Base
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439AW MISSION: Actively support national objectives on a global scale with ready, mobility forces.

Patriot Wing: Are you 'fit to fight'?

Are you "fit to fight?"

That's the question the Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen. John P. Jumper, had in mind when he directed we adopt a new fitness policy. After almost two years of extremely high ops tempo, he felt that many of his troops were not in the shape they should be to go to war. The Chief of the Air Force Reserve, Lt. Gen. James E. Sherrard III, agrees with him.

So what does this mean for you and I? The bottom line is, it means if we are not in shape, we have to get that way.

The new fitness standard is not just a three-mile "walk in the park." If you haven't seen it, it includes a 1.5 mile timed run, push-ups, crunches, and a very strict waist measurement. Each element has a point value assigned which varies with age and gender, with the maximum for all elements of 100 points.

You get 50 points if you max out the run, 30 for the waist measurement (this only varies with gender, it's the same standard for all ages) and 10 each for the push-ups and crunches. The minimum

passing score, or low risk, is 75 points. The fitness center staff has more information and as soon as AFRC publishes their supplement, we will get that info out to you.

Commentary

Now, although AFRC will publish a supplement to the new fitness regulation, don't expect many variances from the active-duty standard. The supplement may give us more time to accomplish the tests and some different guidance on how to administer the program, but we will still have to be in the same shape as our active-duty counterparts.

Before you panic and go out and try to run for the first time since high school track, do yourself a favor and get ready first. If you are over 40, you should probably consult your doctor to make sure everything is still in good working order.

Next, take advantage of our fitness center and its staff. They are preparing some programs for us that will fit our needs, regardless of what shape we are in. If you can't get to the center and decide to get ready on your own, then take it slow. Find some good fitness guides, then stretch, warm up, walk, before you even think about running or attempting push-ups or crunches.

In short, don't push it. We have plenty of time to get ready, and if you don't pass the first time, you have lots of time to try it again.

I know we in the reserve are an older force, however, that's all the more reason to get in shape. As many of our fellow reservists found out when they deployed, going to the desert or any other deployed location is not a "walk in the park." Many of them wished they had been more physically ready for the long hours, hard work and difficult conditions they encountered. Even if you are not deployed, getting fit will help you do your day-to-day job better, especially with the hectic pace we have had here at Westover.

The new fitness program is coming soon, so get ready to get fit and I'll see you at the gym!

by Col. Wade Farris
439th Airlift Wing commander



Briefs

AF plans to demobilize reservists by March

WASHINGTON—The Air Force plans to return to its 15-month Air and Space Expeditionary Force schedule in March and expects to demobilize involuntarily called-up reservists by then or shortly thereafter.

"It's also important to point out to our force that these plans can change," said Michael Dominguez, assistant secretary of the Air Force for manpower and reserve affairs, in a Sept. 10 e-mail to Lt. Gen. James E. Sherrard III, commander of Air Force Reserve Command.

The Air Force will remain on schedule unless Secretary of the Air Force James G. Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper "are convinced that extension of deployments and mobilization are the best way to meet any expansion in the combatant commanders' requirements," Dominguez said. (AFRC News Service)

Undersecretary changes access card mandate

Delays in issuing the Common Access Card (CAC) to all Department of Defense personnel have resulted in the Undersecretary of Defense issuing a policy changing the CAC issuance mandate until April 2004.

The change means that CAC e-mail signing, CAC network log-on, and CAC web server authentication within AFRC are all delayed.

Reservists are still encouraged to get their cards and ensure that their workstations are configured with smart card readers and software (ActiveCard).

Turkey Trot competition set for November UTA

The annual Turkey Trot will take place on the Sunday at 11:30 a.m. of the November A UTA.

Participants will meet at the fitness center for the start of a three- or five-mile run. Sign-up is at the fitness center. People may call Ext. 3958 to register.

Cover photo

ESGR TOUR - Joseph Ryan, a volunteer with the Massachusetts Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) listens as Westover volunteer tour guide and retired CMSgt. Vic Viglione explains the characteristics of a C-5 during an ESGR tour Oct. 7.

—photo by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe

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Patriot Wing grieves loss of popular teacher, friend

by SMSgt. Sandi Michon

His last scene played before a packed house.

More than a thousand people packed Our Lady of Hope Church in Springfield, Mass., on Sept. 30 to pay their final respects to Armand P. Tourangeau who died on Sept. 25 at age 55.

If all the world is a stage, Westover's



File photo

MULTI-TASKER - The late Lt. Col. Armand P. Tourangeau, pictured here as emcee for a recent wing commanders call, spent 32 years at Westover in many roles that included performance planner, mentor, teacher, and exercise evaluator team chief.

lieutenant colonel starred in many roles – patriot, husband, father, brother, friend, confidante, teacher, confessor and leader.

“Westover and the Air Force Reserve have lost a good friend and outstanding leader with Armand’s passing,” said CMSgt. Kathy Wood, struggling for composure as she shared his eulogy at the church. As a long-time co-worker, Wood added the roles Tourangeau personally played in her life — empathic listener, officer and a gentle man.

Our Lady of Hope pastor, Father David Joyce reflected on Tourangeau’s life during the funeral service homily. He had worked closely with Tourangeau who took great pride in serving the church as an ordained deacon. The audience chuckled knowingly when Joyce said his fallen friend would have spoken to them directly via video if he had enough advance notice. As part of a touching tribute, Joyce read directly from a homily Tourangeau wrote when he first learned he had cancer.

Struggling with conflicting emotions, Tourangeau penned his thoughts about being “pruned by God,” stressing that it was wrong to blame God. “God’s heart breaks before ours when bad things happen to us. And even with a broken heart, He picks us up and carries us through difficult times,” Tourangeau wrote.

The wake, evening vigil and funeral service illustrated the varied audience affected by Tourangeau’s death. Two college friends of Tourangeau paid homage. Father Bill Divine, a Navy chaplain on leave after nine months in Iraq, visited his friend at the hospital and spoke

at the vigil. Another college friend, Attorney Ralph Gillis, choked back grief during his reading at the funeral. Vocalist Michael Rancitelli sang a self-composed song “Armand, My Friend” at the vigil, and 13-year-old Sarah Charles, student at Our Lady of Hope School, sang for the funeral.

Rows of blue suiters sat solemnly during the funeral service, clutching tissues and expressing stunned disbelief as they stared at the casket. Westover Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Richard Miesel, decked in clerical vestment, sat with more than 60 bishops, priests and deacons to honor their fellow servant in the faith. In a final tribute, both clergy and Air Force personnel stood in silent formation as pallbearers carried the casket from the church to the hearse.

Military colleagues from around the nation expressed condolences and remember Tourangeau with deep affection. Col. James Joyce, former Westover group commander and current maintenance group commander in Charleston, said: “Armand was a friend to everyone he met. He was one of those people who made the best of both good and bad situations, and helped us all cope with the pressure of our work.”

“He was a friend to everyone – it didn’t matter who you were,” said Wood. “I was always amazed how he stayed connected with so many people. He never forgot a birthday or an anniversary,” she said. The chief taught the “Seven Habits” course with Tourangeau and said her former boss lived the habits. The

see **TOURANGEAU** on page 9

McGregor is new 439th Operations Group commander

Article by SrA. T.R. Ouellette
Photo by MSgt. W.C. Pope

Lt. Col. U. Karl McGregor took command of the 439th Operations Group during a change of command ceremony held in the base conference center on Oct. 4.

“The operations group is a proven superior performer and I plan to continue the tradition of providing the finest people to perform our tasks,” McGregor said.

McGregor is a command pilot with more than 10,200 flight hours. He brings nearly three decades of military experience to the 439th OG as he succeeds Lt. Col. Michael B. Kohut.

Born in Furth, Germany as the son of a 30-year Army veteran, McGregor followed his dad’s footsteps by enlisting into the military upon graduation from high school in Savannah, Ga.

The new group commander began his Air Force career in 1976 in the enlisted ranks as a CH-3 and HH-3 helicopter mechanic at Shaw AFB, S.C. Later he served as a flight engineer at Charleston AFB, S.C. from 1980 to 1982 and Kelly AFB, Texas from 1982 to 1984.

McGregor entered Officer Training School in 1985 and completed his pilot training at Laughlin AFB, Texas, in 1986. He served as an

see **MCGREGOR** on page 4



NEW COMMANDER - Lt. Col. U. Karl McGregor, new 439th OG commander, talks with Col. Belinda R. Morrone, 439th AES commander, following the Oct. 4 ceremony in the base conference center. To McGregor’s right is his wife, Jill.

New squadrons join 439th AW as LSS stands down

Article by TSgt. Andrew Reitano
Photos by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe

A new squadron joined the lineage of the 439th AW and another changed commanders during ceremonies Oct. 1 in the Base Hangar.

Lt. Col. Jacquelyn B. Crothers relinquished command of the 439th Maintenance Operations Squadron to Maj. Farris C. Hill during the change of command ceremony. Crothers then assumed command of the newly-formed 439th Logistics Readiness Squadron.



Crothers

The LRS isn't necessarily a "new" squadron. It combines transportation (vehicle operations and maintenance, and traffic management), supply (including fuels), and the readiness flight (formerly known as wing plans).

Crothers reflected on her unit's new mix of missions.

"This squadron's mission is challenging and interesting, but the men and women of this unit are a hard-working and very capable team," she said. "I am proud to have been

selected for this command. We are looking forward with eagerness and pride to make this newly-formed squadron a major success."

Crothers comes from a logistics background that began as an enlisted member. She was a vehicle operator at Plattsburgh AFB, N.Y. before her commissioning in 1979. Much of her time in logistics was with a variety of transportation assignments in the United States and in Europe.

Crothers said her leadership style has remained consistent through the different assignments she has held. "My command style has not changed much in the past 10 years," she said. "I try to lead by example, and to trust in the abilities of my officers and seniors NCOs. I strongly believe in mentoring."

She also believes in looking out for the welfare of her troops. "A strong emphasis on helping the reservists find their strengths and work out their weaknesses will help form the next generation of leadership to help guide and shape this squadron," she said.

Hill, the new MOS commander, served as the operations officer for the 439th Logistics Support Squadron before taking his new assignment.

He also gained maintenance leadership experience at headquarters level. He served at the Pentagon from January to April 2002 for Operation Enduring Freedom as maintenance desk officer for the Contingency Support Center.

Hill has been a member of the 439th LSS for five years. "This squadron is an exceptional unit of



NEW BOSS - MSgt. Kathleen M. Yost congratulates Maj. Farris C. Hill, 439th Maintenance Operations Squadron commander, following the change of command ceremony.

talented men and women who ensure the staff resources are in place to expedite the repair of the C-5 by our sister squadrons in the maintenance group."

Hill received his commission through the Air Force ROTC at Clemson University in December 1986, and graduated from the aircraft maintenance officers' course at Chanute AFB, Ill., in April 1988. He completed Squadron Officer School in 1998 and is enrolled in Air Command and Staff College.

"There are men and women in the maintenance operations squadron who are well-trained and perform their jobs as professionals every day," Hill said. "I plan to continue to draw on their knowledge as we operate this squadron."

As the new commanders settled into their jobs in October, one of the squadron's NCOs looked forward to the new beginning.

"We're starting from square one - you can start fresh," said TSgt. Susi Sheeran, NCOIC of the LRS orderly room. "I can take all of my knowledge from working in (wing) plans and apply it in LRS."

The formation of the LRS is part of the Air Force's new combat wing organization structure.

The 439th LSS was deactivated on Oct. 1, then reactivated and split into the LRS and MOS.



NEW COLORS - TSgt. John R. Monopoli, 439th Logistics Readiness Squadron first sergeant, and SrA. Tina M. Bonaldi, Patriot Wing Honor Guard, unfurl the new squadron's flag during the Oct. 1 ceremony held in the Base Hangar.

McGREGOR continued from page 3

instructor pilot and squadron scheduler at Kelly AFB from 1986 to 1997, a strategic airlift operations officer at Air Force Reserve Headquarters from 1997 to 1999, and an operations officer for the 756th Airlift Squadron at Andrews AFB, Md., until 2002.

Earlier this year, McGregor attended se-

nior professional military education at the Naval War College.

He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Texas in 1984, a master's degree in Computer Science from Webster State College in 1990 and a master's degree from the Naval War College this year.

He has flown CH-3, HH-3, C-141, C-130, C-17 and C-5 aircraft.

In addition to his goal of continuing the operations group's tradition of meeting the needs of AFRC, AMC and the Air Force, McGregor plans to emphasize the quality of life at the unit level and correcting manning shortfalls.

ASTS airman meets Secretary Roche following ceremony

by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe
and Air Force Print News Service

A Patriot Wing senior airman was among the Air Force Reserve Command representatives who met the Air Force's top civilian leader after a formal ceremony in September at Andrews AFB, Md.

SrA. Tracy L. Notto, a health services management journeyman with the 439th ASTS, shook hands with Secretary of the Air Force James G. Roche following the secretary's Order of the Sword induction.

Senior leaders from Westover chose Notto to represent the base at the induction. She was the 439th AW Airman of the Year for 2002. Officials asked for one representative from each of the Air Force Reserve Command units throughout the country.

"He was a very nice man," Notto said. "He shook my hand and said, 'How are you, ma'am?'" The sole Westover representative anticipated the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to meet the Air Force's senior leadership from the Pentagon. "I was really nervous because I was by myself," she said. "I couldn't wait to e-mail the pictures to my friends in the squadron."

She was very proud to mention Westover to other airmen at the ceremony, most of whom were active-duty. "I was very proud to say it," Notto said. "It was a great ceremony and a wonderful weekend."

Roche became the eighth Air Force-level inductee into the order, and the second secretary, since the "Royal Order of the Sword" ceremony was revised, updated and adopted by Air Force noncommissioned officers in 1967.

Notto has been a reservist at Westover since May 2001.



Courtesy photo

SPECIAL OCCASION - SrA. Tracy L. Notto, 439th ASTS, stands with Secretary of the Air Force James G. Roche following his Order of the Sword ceremony at Andrews AFB, Md., on Sept. 13.

AFRC generals visit Patriot Wing reservists in Uzbekistan

by 1st Lt. Elizabeth Paul
U.S. Central Air Forces-Forward Public Affairs

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM – To learn first hand the issues facing deployed members of Air Force Reserve Command, three Air Force Reserve generals traveled to several overseas locations Sept. 9-19.

Maj. Gen. John J. Batbie Jr., AFRC vice commander; Maj. Gen.



Courtesy photo

CHECKING IN - AFRC vice commander Maj. Gen. John J. Batbie Jr., far left, and Maj. Gen. James D. Bankers, 22nd Air Force commander, flank members of the 42nd APS deployed to Uzbekistan for a photo. Those pictured from the 42nd include CMSgt. Bruce in the front row.

James Bankers, 22nd Air Force commander; and Maj. Gen. Larry Twitchell, mobilization assistant to the commander of 9th Air Force and the U.S. Central Command Air Force, went to Iraq, Afghanistan and other locations in Southwest Asia, as well as Germany. The trip to Iraq included visits to Tallil and Kirkuk Air Bases and Baghdad International Airport – home to thousands of reservists and Air National Guard members.

During those visits, the generals talked to reservists participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom to see their working and living conditions and to address their concerns.

"The reason we are here, first and foremost, is to thank you for your service and what you do," said Batbie during a town hall meeting at one of the bases. That theme was the message Reserve people received around the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility throughout the trip. Besides discussing issues relating directly to reservists in the field, the generals touched on other topics, including family support, pay, the future of the reserve components, equipment and training.

Batbie also talked to the deployed airmen about when they can expect to go home. He said most of them should be off mobilized status no later than March 2004 and they can expect deployments to return to the volunteer, two-week tours of duty.

"Requirements are going to drive what's happening over here (Iraq) and in Afghanistan," the general said. "It will guide what's going to happen down the road, and we are going to try to do what we've done in the past with volunteers participating in two-week deployments or longer for AEF (Air and Space Expeditionary Force) support if at all possible."

After each meeting, the generals took time to meet the people and talk to them individually about additional concerns. Batbie said that by visiting the troops in the field, he had a better understanding of conditions to make decisions about future deployments.

(AFRC News Service)

Patriot Wing kickstarts Combined Federal Campaign

Article and photo

by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe

More than 90 military and civilian people lined up for a kickoff breakfast at Westover on Sept. 30 to help get the Combined Federal Campaign started.

TSgt. Glenn G. Connon, an aircraft electrician with the 439th AMXS and base CFC co-chair, said this year's campaign goal at the base is \$30,000. "Our number one goal on base is 100 percent contact, 50 percent participation," he said.

About 20 key workers from units at Westover are helping to raise the money. Proceeds go to charities throughout the Pioneer Valley, regionally and nationwide.

The Pioneer Valley CFC is a federal employee program that supports charity organizations through tax-deductible donations.

Linda Markwald, regional vice president of Community Health Charities in Springfield, said the base has supported CFC for more than 30 years. "Westover is an extremely important part of the campaign," she said. "It's a nice statement to hold it here."

MSgt. James T. Mitchell, also with the 439th AMXS and a CFC co-chair, coordinated the breakfast with Connon. In addition to coordinating the breakfast, Connon and Mitchell arranged a C-5 tour with the Westover Public Affairs Office staff for 28 of the guests.

Connon said the kickoff preceded six weeks of solicitations on the base that will wrap up Nov. 17. Solicitors will contact all of the

base populace through the coming weeks and during the October and November UTAs.

Ice cream "scoop-a-thons" will be held on Oct. 19 and Nov. 2 to help Westover reach its goal. "They will take place at the Westover Club during lunch hours. Proceeds will go to the undesignated CFC charity pool," Connon said.

Col. Wade Farris, 439th AW commander, emphasized the worthwhile cause of CFC.

"Many of the member organizations of the CFC play an important role in taking care of our reservists and their families when they are in need," he said. "Those of us in the 439th should strongly consider making a contribution, no matter how big or small, because every little bit helps."

The commander said payroll deduction is one of the easiest ways to donate, particularly for civilian and air reserve technicians at Westover.

"For the price of a lunch, a bottle of soda or a pack of cigarettes each pay period, you can make a nice contribution to the chairity of your choice. Our reservists can also contribute with a one-time gift that will help us reach our goal. With everyone's help, I'm sure we can make those goals and make a difference in our community."

People seeking more information about the Pioneer Valley CFC can visit its web site at www.cfcvalley.org. "It's an excellent website and has the campaign brochure on it," Markwald said. "People can locate a particular charity they seek."



MERCURY MONEY - Adjusting the CFC thermometer sign on Patriot Avenue are, from left, TSgt. Glenn G. Connon, 439th AMXS and CFC co-chair; Linda Markwald, regional vice president of Community Health Charities; MSgt. James T. Mitchell, 439th AMXS and CFC co-chair; and Diane Hunt, Community Health Charities director of operations.

The campaign ends Dec. 15.

People with questions about the Westover campaign may call Connon at Exts. 3295 or 2023.

Aircraft from around the world line North Ramp for UN meet

Article by TSgt. Andrew Reitano

Photo by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe

Westover became an aerial version of the United Nations in September as a group of foreign aircraft carrying heads-of-states for a UN General Assembly needed a place to park.

On Sept. 22, the North Ramp of the flight line quickly filled up with aircraft from all over the world.

"The Pentagon needed parking spaces for these planes while the dignitaries were in New York City," said Scott Buchanan, chief of base operations at Westover.

"For a variety of reasons, several Air Force bases in the surrounding area couldn't accommodate the planes because of construction or lack of space, so Westover took the majority of them."

Buchanan's staff directed the pilots to ar-

range the aircraft so that they could taxi directly out to the runway. The row of brightly-colored jetliners contrasted the camouflage and dark gray colors of the military aircraft that normally park on the ramp.

According to Buchanan, the success of September's visits means Westover may some time become an international parking lot again.

"Something like this is an excellent way to keep Westover on the map and in the forefront of peoples' minds," Buchanan said.

Although he performed much of the coordination with which aircraft would be coming to Westover, Buchanan credits a cooperative base effort for the success.

"The dispatchers in base ops went above and beyond their job descriptions," he said. "I also have to give the air terminal operations center, security forces, and transit alert a tremendous amount of credit for ensuring that our guests received the service they deserved."



FOREIGN FLYERS - Aircraft from around the world park on the North Ramp at Westover on Sept. 22. The aircraft were part of a United Nations delegation that spent several days in New York. Aircraft pictured here are from Senegal, Ukraine, Brazil, and Spain. Others later came from South Africa, India, Mexico, Italy, and Kyrgyzstan.

439th maintainence, medical teams support Dover operations

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

Teams of Patriot Wing maintainers and medical specialists deployed to Dover AFB, Del. in September to support help active duty members cope with a high ops tempo.

About 100 Westover maintainers are working 12-hour shifts at Dover AFB, Del. in support of the active duty 436th Airlift Wing as they rebuild the force following the stresses of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Speaking in October, 2nd Lt. Michael J. Dibrandisi, officer in charge of the deployed group, said they were focusing on helping their Dover counterparts reconstitute their 36 C-5 Galaxies and launch training missions to bring maintenance and training up to standards after crews and aircraft were pushed in support of the Iraqi Freedom surge. Maintainers were on duty around the clock supporting local flying

and operations to the Iraqi Freedom AOR.

The Patriot Wing maintainers deployed to Dover for the AMC tasking during the first days of September and were scheduled to be on the job until Dec. 6.

In October, four members of the 439th Aerospace Medicine Squadron were working at the Dover clinic. Deployed were Doctor (Lt. Col.) Michael A. Palmer; 2nd Lt. Stacey L. Balicki, nurse; MSgt. Jean M. Allison, medical services specialist; and MSgt. Lisa R. Laudenslager, health services management specialist. Palmer was scheduled to return to Westover in early October, while the remaining AMDS people will probably serve another 30 days in Delaware.

The Westover medical team was seeing about 20 to 25 patients a day at the family practice section of the 436th Medical Group clinic. Most of the patients were activated reservists and Guard members of the Air Force, Army and Marines.

Hurricane Isabel roared through Dover in September disrupting operations for both Patriot Wing deployed teams.

Although there were no injuries on base as a result of the storm, the high winds of Isabel forced a closing of the Dover clinic for a day and a half, Laudenslager said.

In anticipation of high winds, the

Engine check

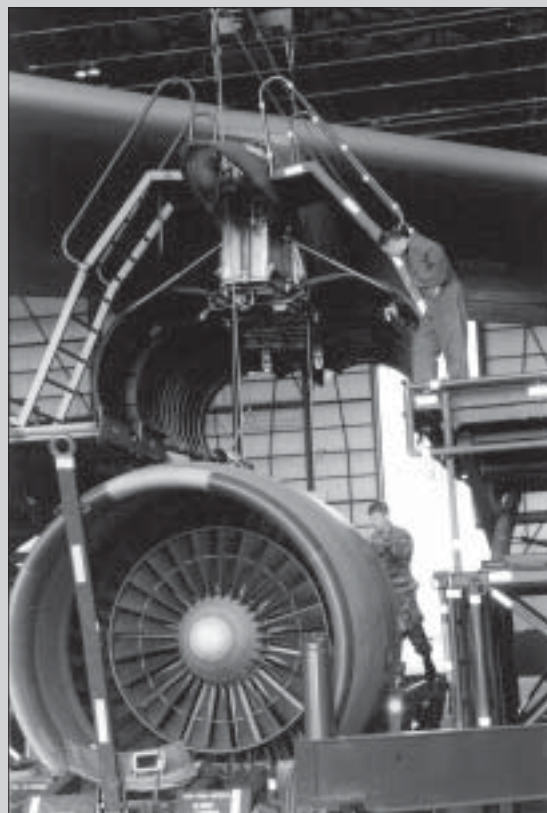


photo by TSgt. Bob Cirillo

ENGINE CHANGE - TSgt. Shawn A. Manley, 439th AMXS, left, and MSgt. Edward M. Sierzego Jr., MXS, work on a C-5 engine inside the Westover fuel cell hangar. Nearly 100 members from MXS and AMXS deployed to Dover AFB in early September for three months to support C-5 operations there.



photo by SMSgt. Earl Duncan

THRUST ADJUST - TSgt. Michael W. Guntor, 439th AMXS, right, and SSgt. Brandon Cooper, 512th AMXS, work on the thrust reverser switches of a C-5 at Dover AFB, Del.

Westover maintainers were busy as Dover aircrews launched every one of their C-5s to other bases, leaving the Dover flightline vacant for several days. Only a couple of "canned birds" remained in hangars.

see **DOVER** on page 12

Luncheon toasts reservists, federal worker contributions

Westover reservists took first place and were finalists in three federal service categories during a recent awards luncheon held at the Log Cabin in Holyoke.

CMSgt. Tammy H. Vezina, 439th MSS and MPF superintendent, received the Distinguished Federal Manager Award during the first Excellence in Government Awards Luncheon held Sept. 22.

SMSgt. Michael C. Barrick, 439th AMXS flight chief, was a finalist in Vezina's award category.

TSgt. Jon-Gary Williams, 439th AMXS aircraft maintenance technician, received the Outstanding Community Service Award.

MSgt. Andrew J. Martindell, a squadron maintenance production supervisor with the 439th AMXS, was a finalist for the Distinguished Federal Supervisor Award.



Vezina



Williams

The luncheon honored all federal employees throughout Western Massachusetts for their service to the country.

Diane Lessard helped organize the event.

She is a human resources specialist with Westover's civilian personnel office and a member of the awards committee for the Federal Executive Association of Western Massachusetts (FEAWM).

"This event is something we plan to do every year," Lessard said.

"It not only gives our reservists and civilian employees some recognition, it also brings government employees together from throughout the valley."

Michael J. Kennedy, chief of civilian personnel, was one of the judges for the awards and is on the FEAWM board of directors.

Couple's unselfishness brings home state adoptive award

**Article and photo
by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe**

Like any devoted parents, Capt. Jim Coyle and his wife, Lynda, provide love and compassion for their children.

The Coyles took those parenting hallmarks to another level more than two years ago when they adopted a baby born three months premature. To secure custody of Jack, they dealt with two years of legal negotiations, court hearings, and assorted delays. Their persistent effort earned the couple the Massachusetts Adoptive Parents of the Year for 2003 from the Department of Social Services.

When the Coyles adopted Jack, a special needs child who was born with an enlarged head, they faced the chances of heartbreak as the infant was born with hydrocephaly, an accumulation of spinal fluid in the brain, Lynda said.

Doctors inserted a tube into Jack's ventricles when he was born. The tube drains the fluid into his abdomen and remains in the toddler's body today. Doctors annually check to make sure the shunt is operating properly.

Even though Jack's original parents waived their parental rights, the process still took two years for the Coyles. They finalized the adoption in July.

Lynda is a registered nurse familiar with the care required for premature babies. Jim saw the child for the first time at a hospital in Worcester. He said he could not see little Jack be taken away to a nursing home.

"DSS (Department of Social Services) just wanted to find a home for him," he said.

"His father and mother had abandoned him. The initial diagnosis was that he wouldn't live. We just wanted a chance to put in a home for awhile."

All it took was for the father of four to hold the infant for a few minutes. "I

held him and I fed him," he said.

Dawn Sweetman, an adoption social worker at the western regional DSS office in Springfield for seven years, said she had never seen the kind of compassion shown for a special needs child until she met the Coyles. "This was absolutely extraordinary,"

Sweetman said. "The Coyles dealt with a court process for two years – people rescheduling court dates, a judge out sick...it takes time."

Sweetman said Lynda's persistent advocacy for Jack was startling. "She was on the phone with doctors and nurses. She set up every possible service and gave him the best chance to live."

The effort shown by the Coyles convinced Sweetman to put the couple in for the state adoptive award.

Sweetman said the Springfield DSS staff chose the Coyles from 75 eligible families.

Even with so much of the attention from Jim and Lynda focused on Jack, the other children are more than happy to help raise the little boy in a safe and happy home, Jim said.

"My older kids are more help than hindrance," he said. "They are a huge help," Lynda added. "We discussed with them that we might bring Jack home before we made the decision."

My wife said, "He's staying."

Bring him home, the kids answered. Jack's older siblings range from 8 to 18 years old.

"The kids cheered us on," Lynda said. "They said, 'we have to take him.'"

"We knew after two weeks we couldn't give him up," Jim said. Lynda said the kids regularly take Jack in his stroller, change his diapers, and generally treat the toddler like they would any other little brother.

"Jack's been a blessing," Lynda said. "He's so happy. Nothing bothers him."



ALL IN THE FAMILY - Capt. Jim Coyle, 58th APS, and his wife, Lynda, pause for a photo with their adopted son, Jack. The Coyles recently received the Adoptive Parents of the Year award from the Massachusetts Department of Social Services.

"He loves you unconditionally," Jim added. "It's just really cool to watch him."

Jim Coyle has been a reservist at Westover since 1989. He is the officer in charge of the air terminal operations center in the 58th APS.

The couple recently added a foster child to their Turners Falls home. With six children at home, Lynda and Jim still manage to find time for each other. "We go out once a week," Jim said. "We put a priority on time together."

The Coyles have been married for 18 years. Jim's mother, Lorraine Coyle, also lives at the house and helps out with taking care of all of the children. "We couldn't do this without her," Jim said.

Lynda and Jim deflect the credit for their award to Jack.

"In my heart it was the right thing to do," Jim said, adding when it comes to love for children, he and Linda are absolute. "You can't be lukewarm. You can't ride the fence," he said.

"They said he wasn't going to live," Lynda added, as Jack crawled across the floor on his back again during a recent visit to Jim Coyle's office at the 58th APS.

"Well, he proved them wrong."

"This was absolutely extraordinary. The Coyles dealt with a court process for two years – people rescheduling court dates, a judge out sick...it takes time."

- Dawn Sweetman, adoption social worker, Massachusetts Department of Social Services in Springfield

Security forces changes commanders at rifle range

by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe

Maj. Timothy S. Donnelly took over as commander of the 439th SFS on Oct. 4 during a change of command ceremony at the base rifle range.

Donnelly succeeded Lt. Col. Mary Ann Lutz, who departed for NAS JRB Carswell, where she will be commander of a security forces squadron at the Fort Worth, Texas, base. Lutz had been SFS commander at Westover since 1999.

Assigned to SFS since 1984, Donnelly was an enlisted member of the 905th Security Police Flight, the predecessor to the 439th SFS, before being promoted to lieutenant and commanding the 905th as well.

He was acting SFS commander while Lutz was deployed for Opera-

tion Enduring Freedom. Donnelly earned the Bronze Star for his service in Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom from January to July 2002.

In his civilian job, Donnelly is a trooper with the Massachusetts State Police assigned to the Massachusetts Attorney General's office.

Donnelly reported to CMSgt. Frank M. Puopolo, the 439th SFS senior enlisted advisor, when Puopolo was a squad leader for the 905th, said Robert R. Durand, chief of police services for the squadron. Also a state trooper, Puopolo now reports to Donnelly on enlisted issues in the squadron, Durand said.



Donnelly

TOURANGEAU from page 3

meaning of the habit "begin with the end in mind" meant something deeper to Tourangeau after his cancer diagnosis and he told Wood that he couldn't wait to teach the next course to share his new perspective.

To acknowledge the deep impact of Tourangeau's life, Wood shared "How Will You Live Your Dash?" poem for his eulogy. It speaks of the dash between the date of birth and the date of death as the measure of a life. Two stanzas caused pause to those present: "For that dash represents all the time - that he spent alive on earth... and now only those who loved him - know what that line is worth. For it matters not, how much we own; the cars, the house, the cash, what matters is how we live and love, and how we spend our dash."

"I believe I knew Armand pretty well and I can tell you that he should be very proud of his dash," Wood said.

Other reservists echoed those sentiments at a memorial service held for Tourangeau on Oct. 4. Reservists stood and recounted

"I believe I knew Armand pretty well and I can tell you that he should be very proud of his dash."

- CMSgt. Kathy Wood

memories that underscored his starring roles. They spoke of his kindness, his skill and love of teaching, his inspiration (both professionally and spiritually), his open door policy and willingness to listen.

Base chaplains fondly recalled Tourangeau who had served as auxiliary chaplain at Westover, filling in when base chaplains were unavailable. "He was the first person to show me around when I arrived at Westover over 20 years ago. He made me feel very welcome," said Miesel. Even though Tourangeau was in his 50's, Miesel said he showed the opposite of a mid-life crisis. "He had integrity and serenity of

heart - a fullness in all areas of life. He knew what he believed and what he did with his life was consistent with his beliefs," the chaplain explained.

Westover Chaplain (Capt.) William Wiecher remembers Tourangeau as a joyful servant. "He was such fun to be around. He lived life as a gift - not to be squandered - but to be opened and enjoyed," said Wiecher. "He also made you feel like you were the most important person in the world. He was there, he was focused." The captain commented on Tourangeau's role as a deacon explaining that the Greek word "diakonia" means servant. "That's what he was," he said simply.

Tourangeau served the Air Force for nearly 32 years, 11 years in his last position as Wing Performance Planner. Born in Holyoke, Mass., he spent most of his life in Springfield. He received a bachelor's degree from Saint Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia, Canada, and held a master's degree in both French and education. He served as adjunct business

professor at Western New England College and taught at both the grammar and high school level. He was employed as a systems analyst for Mass Mutual Life Insurance Company before working as an Air Reserve Technician at Westover, and served on many school and civic board of directors.

He became an ordained deacon with the Diocese of Springfield in 1997, and described the event tearfully in an interview as "the most important life event other than his wedding day."

He is survived by Carol (Moon), his wife of 33 years. He leaves his daughters Michele Tourangeau and her fiancé Matthew Sunderland, and Renee Kosciusko and her husband Matthew, his sister, Denise Tourangeau, and aunt, Claire Lefebvre.

As those left behind cope with the pain of loss, Tourangeau offers comfort through words penned during his own pain of illness. "My friends, all our circumstances may be different, the ultimate goal here is that, through our pruning process, each of us is taken from a lesser place with God to a far better place - into a relationship with Him," he said.



Griffin Services partnership plays large role in air bridge

by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe

They helped pump millions of gallons of jet fuel. They stood and shivered on the flight line with the aerial port squadrons, helping to move millions of pounds of cargo on and off aircraft.

While they don't wear the olive drab BDU or blues uniforms, the 120 Griffin Services employees are on the front line of Westover's operations. An example was Griffin's involvement in the surge of operations earlier this year.

Griffin men and women worked with more than 1,000 activated Air Force reservists to form a team that made the Westover air bridge a success. The hard work and long hours turned heads at the highest levels of Air Force leadership. Griffin workers are assigned to nine areas on the base, ranging from the flight line to offices and includes those with Maytag, Griffin's subcontractor.

Claire M. LeBlanc, Westover's administrative contracting officer, said the teamwork and cooperation with Griffin project manager Charlie Cotter and his managers was crucial to the base's overall success of the surge.

"They stepped up to the plate," LeBlanc said. "They re-scheduled their employees to meet the workload.

That saved us a lot of money because they weren't working overtime."

Day-to-day requirements for the

massive flow of aircraft, personnel and cargo coming through Westover changed almost daily, LeBlanc said. Costs of the operation had to be held to a minimum, even though it was clear the scope of the Air Force's operations were changing constantly.

"The folks in base operations and weather were tremendously effective in keeping the airfield open 24 hours during Operation Iraqi Freedom," said Lt. Col. Patricia A. Evans,

439th Operations Support Squadron commander. "The integration of base ops contractors and reservists within airfield management was second to none."

When Westover got slammed with a Nor'easter, Griffin snowplow drivers cleared the runways. In fact, they did it so well that Westover was the only military airfield open on the entire East Coast during one of the many snowstorms of 2003.

More than 2,000 C-5s came through Westover from February to July. Most of the giant aircraft needed a guide to show the way around the sprawling airfield. Maytag workers, subcontracted by Griffin, drove "Follow Me" trucks to get that covered.

They headed out to the meet their visitors 24



Courtesy photo

PLOWER POWER - Griffin Services snow plow drivers managed to keep Westover's flight line and runways open throughout the long and cold winter of 2003.

Reservists, Griffin workers rack up huge statistics

Griffin employees worked with the following squadrons and organizations on base to produce the following statistics from the surge, from Feb. 1 to July 8:

Aerial port:

30,954,049 pounds of cargo handled

Fuels:

Workers pumped 17,948,283 pounds of JP-8 fuel into base and transiting aircraft

Transportation:

Six Griffin bus drivers worked with reservists and active-duty Air Force transportation personnel to move 11,993 passengers around the base with a 24-hour shuttle

workers, subcontracted by Griffin, drove "Follow Me" trucks to get that covered. They headed out to the meet their visitors 24

hours a day, to guide the aircrews to their parking spots.

Griffin Services took over as the base contractor in March 2000, following the A-76 study. The Atlanta-based company oversees the general day-to-day operations at Westover.

"Skepticism ran high when the Air Force Reserve transitioned from civil service to Griffin Contracting," said Col. Dana S. Marsh, 439th Mission Support Group commander. "Westover is my second base experience working with the professional Griffin Team and I have found this 'blended' concept to be more of a force multiplier than originally envisioned."

Marsh cited the in-depth and prior military experience that much of the Griffin workforce has that helped them become so effective at the base. "The experience level in Griffin is immense," she said. "Many are retired military members or former business owners themselves. They understand the role that Westover plays in national defense. They are vital and essential team members to our joint success."



photo courtesy of Lt. Col. Stanley*

CCAT deployed

MALARIA TRANSPORT - Lt. Col. Stanley* checks an arterial line while transporting a Marine afflicted with cerebral malaria. After completing a medical flight to Germany, the three-member Critical Care Air Transport Team (CCATT) from Westover's 439th ASTS was tasked to Liberia to pick up the sick Marines. Thirty-one ill Marines were transported to Monrovia by helicopter from the USS Iwo Jima. Westover's CCATT transported two critically-ill Marines by C-17. While on the ground in Senegal, one of their patients and a non-critical patient suddenly worsened and required intubation. Stanley*, Capt. Shawn* and TSgt. Richard* provided constant medical care during the flight to Andrews AFB and then to Bethesda National Naval Medical Center. The Marines are reportedly improving and Bethesda officials cited CCATT care as a factor.

*AFRC security guidelines prohibit the use of last names of deployed reservists



A1C Darrell I. Coleman

Patriot People

Name: Darrell I. Coleman**Rank:** A1C**Age:** 21**Address:** West Springfield**Unit:** 439th MSS**Position:** Customer service**Civilian position:** Customer service**Favorite food:** Southern soul food**Years of service:** Six months**Favorite sports:** Football/basketball**Favorite hobbies:** Making beats/writing songs**Ideal vacation:** A trip around the world to learn about the different cultures**Best way to relax:** Listen to music**Preferred entertainment:** Any type of music**Favorite heroes:** Jesus and my parents**Favorite music styles:** Gospel and R&B soul/hip-hop**Favorite movie:** Blood in Bloodout/American History X**Favorite aircraft:** B-2 bomber**Pet peeve:** Bad hygiene**What would I do if I won \$1 million:** Invest, pay my bills, buy a house, give some to my family, and start a small business

Patriot Praises

Enlistments:

SSgt. Willett, James R.
A1C Bonafilia, Matthew A.
A1C McKunes, Stephen M., Jr.

Reenlistments:

CMSgt. Tavares, John J.
SMSgt. O'Neil, Christopher M.
SMSgt. Rodrigues, Lawrence P., Jr.
SMSgt. Schile, Dawn S.
MSgt. Forbes, William J.
MSgt. Mitchell, Alice L.
MSgt. NG, Johnny K W
MSgt. Page, David A.
MSgt. Philbrick, Mark E.
MSgt. Robert, Theresa M.
MSgt. Schulz, Kimberly S.
MSgt. Serrao, Nelson A.
MSgt. Vight, Dennis J.

MSgt. Wilson, David F.
TSgt. Blajda, Leonard E.
TSgt. Davane, Thomas G.
TSgt. Dorr, Timothy J.
TSgt. Goguen, Richard J.
TSgt. Hamlet, Michael E.
TSgt. Hebert, Joshua
TSgt. Kennedy, Jason M.
TSgt. King, Richard C.
TSgt. Lebron, Antonio
TSgt. Lepsch, Edward J.
TSgt. Lovett, Terry G.
TSgt. McGann, Linda M.
TSgt. Morris, Craig A.
TSgt. Murphy, Peter J.
TSgt. Riley, Arthur H, Jr.
TSgt. Roberts, Todd A.
TSgt. Sanford, Michael W., III
TSgt. Schmoke, Richard T.

TSgt. Soja, Paul M.
TSgt. Stackpole, Kara B.
TSgt. Tynik, Andrew J.
TSgt. Walas, Christina M.
TSgt. Woodward, Charles F.
SSgt. Adams, David A.
SSgt. Batchelor, Thomas J., Jr.
SSgt. Dejimenez, Lazaro A.
SSgt. Lecuyer, Joseph R.
SSgt. Moriarty, Sarah A.
SSgt. Ryals, Amber L.
SSgt. Willett, James Ralph
SrA. Bissonnette, Jon N.
SrA. Semedo, Kennedy C.
SrA. Tardif, Laura A.

Promotions:

SSgt. Steiger, Kennan L.

Assignments:

Col. Waddell, Debra L.
MSgt. Ward, Anne C.
TSgt. St. George, Darlene C.
SSgt. Nemeth, Michael S.

Retired:

Capt. Hack, Michael J., Jr.
SMSgt. Rowe, John W.
MSgt. Cambio, David P.
MSgt. Cobleigh, Roy K., Jr.
MSgt. Dawson, Kelly E.
MSgt. Jackson, John J.
MSgt. Laux, Arthur W.
MSgt. Tinnemeyer, John W.
TSgt. Riel, Francis L.

Awards and Decorations

Air Force Achievement Medal

TSgt. Thomas J. Cestroni
SSgt. Roberto Felix

Air Force Commendation Medal

Maj. Lawrence K. Josiah
Maj. Patrick S. Ryan
CMSgt. Alan P. Rogers
MSgt. Eugene Bebeau, III
MSgt. Wilbert Feltner
MSgt. James T. Irla
MSgt. Jerry L. Kaulback

MSgt. Stephen C. Mueller
MSgt. Ronald E. Philbrick
TSgt. Ronald H. Corliss
TSgt. Laray Deveaux
TSgt. Joanna O. Sheeran
SSgt. Gary J. Surozenski

Meritorious Service Medal

Maj. Patrick L. Cloutier
SMSgt. John J. Sobczyk
MSgt. James F. Hniedziejko
MSgt. Robert F. Kalisz
TSgt. Lori D. Boucher
TSgt. David S. Sadler

Community College of the Air Force graduates - October 2003

SMSgt. Kristine Seney	SSgt. Kevin R. Blake
MSgt. Belitza Brice	SSgt. Sonja Deyoe
MSgt. Robert J. McGraw	SSgt. Jesse Pickering
MSgt. Mark Philbrick	SSgt. Kenneth W. Rose
MSgt. Lisa Spence-Elder	SSgt. Caroline Roy
TSgt. Kimberly Babin	SSgt. Jennifer Serricchio
TSgt. Timothy A. Forde	SSgt. Debra L. Sprague
TSgt. Alexander F. Sullivan	SSgt. Anton L. Williams
TSgt. Michael Wysocki	SrA. Thomas R. Ouellette

The Combined Federal Campaign runs until Nov. 17 at Westover. All reservists and civilian workers are urged to donate to their favorite charity. For more information, contact any unit key worker or TSgt. Glenn Connon at Ext. 3295 or 2023.

Reservists visit, thank Soldiers' Home veterans



COFFEE CHAT - TSgt. Patrick M. Conway, 439th ASTS, talks with Bob Murphy, left, and Bob Quigley at the Soldiers' Home. Conway was among five members of the 439th AW who traveled to Holyoke to serve coffee and cookies to the veterans and thank them for their service to America.

- photos by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe



HANDSHAKE OF THANKS - SrA. Sadia E. Del Rosario, 439th Services Squadron, shakes the hand of World War II veteran Stan Kozyra during a visit to the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke.

DOVER continued from page 7

The Patriot Wing maintainers from the 439th Maintenance Squadron and Aircraft Maintenance Squadron were welcomed by the hard-pressed Dover maintainers.

"They hit the ground running. They have a lot of experience and the active-duty people appreciated what they brought to the job," Dibrindisi said of his team. "Most of the group

are volunteers. We're glad to help," the team commander said.

Col. Daniel W. Allen, 439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron commander, visited the deployed maintainers in September. A highlight was the opportunity for the commander to pin senior master sergeant stripes on MSgt. Earl E. Duncan Jr., acting first sergeant of the team. Allen's in-person visit, made with

SMSgt. Michael C. Barrick, included several other morale-builders for the deployers, Duncan said. Allen presented an Air Force Commendation Medal to SMSgt. Paul J. Servant, and the commander even brought "hugs from home." At the request of MSgt. Scott G. Griffin's family, Allen embraced Griffin, as he passed along a reminder that the maintainer's family missed him back in Massachusetts.

PATRIOT

www.afrc.af.mil/439aw

November UTA schedule

A UTA Nov. 1-2

B UTA Nov. 15-16



439th AW/PA
WESTOVER AIR RESERVE BASE
100 Lloyd Street
East Wing, Suite 103
CHICOPEE, MA 01022-1825

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Published monthly for Patriots like Amn. Anthony Gonzalez, East Hampton, Conn., and 2,451 members of the 439th AW at Westover ARB, and geographically separated units.